

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044
1400 Tenth Street, Rm 2
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Fish and Wildlife
Marine Region
1933 Cliff Drive, Suite 9
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

Project Title: Elk River Estuary Post-Project Monitoring

Project Location: Elk River (40°45'27.47" N, 124°11'33.61" W).

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Ross Taylor of Ross Taylor & Associates pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) for research monitoring purposes. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to take Longfin Smelt (*Spirinchus thaleichthys*) and Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) during the course of sampling, subject to terms and conditions set forth in the permit. The purpose of this sampling is to conduct post project restoration monitoring. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture Longfin Smelt and Coho Salmon during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round monthly sampling of species within Elk River Estuary through the use of seine nets through December 31, 2024.

California Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Ross Taylor, Ross Taylor & Associates

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial;
- Declared Emergency;
- Emergency Project;
- Categorical Exemption. Type and section number: Calif. Code Regs., § 15306, Information Collection, Class 6

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project involves sampling within the Elk River Estuary which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to Longfin Smelt and Coho Salmon which are both listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dylan Inskeep

Telephone: (707) 576-2878

Signature: 

Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

Date: November 10, 2022

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____